

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

An exhibition of contemporary figurative painting will open July 10, 1974 at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Entitled "Aspects of the Figure," it will include 24 paintings, primarily portraits and nudes, created since the early 1960s by 16 artists. Among those whose work will be represented are John Clem Clarke, Richard McLean, Philip Pearlstein, Fairfield Porter, Raphael Soyer, and Wayne Thiebaud.

The exhibition has been organized, according to Edward B. Henning, Curator of Modern Art, to indicate the number of ways the human figure is being treated today. Several kinds of new figure painters are included, along with others who have been painting this subject consistently for 30 or more years.

"The human figure abounds with possibilities for artistic expression. It is one of the most ancient subjects treated by artists, engaging their energies and imaginations since paleolithic times," Mr. Henning says.

While this exhibition, limited as it is to a small selection of contemporary figure painters, can reveal only a fraction of these possibilities, Mr. Henning adds, it does illustrate a wide diversity of figurative pursuits.

For example, Ben Schonzeit paints with a photographic fidelity bordering on fool-the-eye illusionism, while Raphael Soyer and Fairfield Porter reflect a gentle, almost romantic vision. William Beckman's meticulously painted static figure brings to mind Flemish painting of the 15th century.

(more)

2-aspects of the figure

Philip Pearlstein paints human figures with stark realism, but arranges them in relation to one another and the surrounding space to create formal patterns so striking that one might almost refer to them as "abstract realism."

"Aspects of the Figure" has been assembled by Edward Henning and Tom Hinson, Assistant Curator of Modern Art, who also have prepared the exhibition catalogue. Works for the show have been loaned by galleries in New York, and by private collectors.

Installed in the special exhibition gallery on the Museum's second floor, the show will continue through September 1.

A series of gallery talks has been planned in conjunction with the exhibition, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24 and Sunday, July 28; and on Wednesday, August 28 and Sunday, September 1.

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For additional information or photographs, contact Frances Stamper, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; (216) 421-7340.